

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the above-identified application, and were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 17, and 18 were amended. Accordingly, claims 1-18 remain at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 13-14 and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,538). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that an identification of the electronic information equipment storing the subsequent information is stored with the information.

As discussed in the Response to the February 22, 2006, Office Action, Ji et al. is directed to a multiple deck VCR system capable of performing a combination and a series of playback operations. See col. 1, lines 11-16. Ji et al. provides that when the end sensor 64 determines the completion of the playback operation of the first VCR deck 11, it feeds a signal RE11 to the sequential logic circuit 40. Subsequently, the sequential logic circuit 40 provides a signal RS20 to the controller 20 in the second VCR unit 200 so that the second VCR deck 21 can perform the playback operation. If the cassette loading sensor 72 determines that the second VCR deck 21 does not have any cassette tape loaded therein, it should be determined whether the third VCR unit 300 is ready to operate. See col. 6, line 63 - col. 7, line 5.

Ji et al. does not disclose or suggest storing an identification of the electronic information equipment that stores the subsequent information with the information, as required by claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 2 and 4, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over Ji et al.

For similar reasons claim 5-6, 8-10, 13-14 and 17-18 are allowable over Ji et al. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 3, 7, 11-12, 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,538). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, Ji et al. does not disclose or suggest storing an identification of the electronic information equipment that stores the subsequent information with the information, as required by claim 1. Thus, it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a controller outside the VCR double/triple decks for control purposes to derive claim 3, which depends from claim 1. For similar reasons claim 7, 11-12, 15-16 are allowable over Ji et al. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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